AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following paragraph for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

A mechanism for automating[[,]] ~~in large part or in whole~~[[,]] the process of establishing a resource grid is provided. ~~This mechanism, which may take the form of a~~ <u>First, a</u> grid establishment component (GEC)[[,]] is communicatively coupled to a plurality of nodes, wherein each node provides zero or more resources. ~~After the GEC is coupled to the nodes~~ <u>Next</u>, the GEC ~~determines~~ <u>selects</u> which of the nodes to include in a resource grid[[.]] ~~The nodes that are selected to be included in the resource grid are referred to as grid nodes. After the grid nodes are selected, the GEC proceeds to establish~~ <u>and establishes</u> the resource grid by configuring each [[grid]] <u>selected</u> node (<u>i.e., grid node</u>) to ~~enable it to~~ participate as part of the resource grid. In addition, the GEC establishes one or more grid masters to manage access to the resources provided by the grid nodes. Once the grid nodes are configured, and one or more grid masters are established, the resource grid is ready for regular operation. By automating the grid establishment process, the GEC removes a significant burden from a system administrator, and greatly simplifies and accelerates the process of establishing a resource grid.